

Podunk, Nebraska, and maybe you do. I would suggest that in this day and age when a good attorney, a responsible attorney can earn a six figure salary and whether that is right or not is beyond me, but the facts are there, we are asking individuals to sit on the bench, exercise the power of life and death, exercise power over children, over all of us, and we are standing here today and saying, we can tell within a hundred dollars a month or fifty dollars a month what that man and woman is worth. You are going to catch some flak. The more talk you have on it the more you are going to catch and that is fine with me. None of us are opposed to that. We asked for it. But I am telling you right now that the judiciary is the backbone of everything we do on this floor, and if you are not satisfied with the present judiciary, maybe we are responsible for it. Automatically raising the wages will not automatically guarantee us a competent system.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But I would say this, we have a good judiciary now. We have an excellent judiciary for the most part, and to act positively on LB 269 as it was introduced is a step in the right direction toward an even better judiciary. I would suggest that you should vote against this amendment and all subsequent amendments, and vote for LB 269 in the original form because I am not going to support anything else. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I rise to support Senator VonMinden in his attempt to get the increase in judge's salaries to the place where they should be. Senator Kahle talked about inflation. You know, as we keep raising to combat inflation, we are the greatest inflation creator of them all, and who benefits by inflation but the government. So I can see where some would not be opposed to the inflationary aspects that we create. You talk about competency, and raising a salary does not increase the competency or the quality as we have seen countless times and as we have experienced ourselves in this body. And Senator Schmit said also that no one back in Podunk City is looking at this. Well, I disagree. I feel very strongly that the people in my district, and they have told me and I have taken a poll, and I am following their wishes when I vote on this issue, and if Senator VonMinden's compromise is not accepted, I will not be able to vote for LB 269. Thank you.